

Governor Daniel's Strategic Skills Initiative is a \$23 million program designed to create new jobs and raise Hoosier income. Representatives from economic and workforce development, business, education, and labor developed regional plans which identified and qualified short-term and long-term skill shortages, identified the root-causes of these shortages, and allowed for development and implementation of regional strategies to address identified needs.

Economic Growth Region 7 is comprised of Clay, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Vermillion, and Vigo Counties.

KEY OCCUPATION SHORTAGES

- ✕ Maintenance Repair Workers, General
- ✕ First Line Supervisors/Managers of Mechanics
- ✕ Chemical Technicians
- ✕ Electrical and Electronic Repairers/Commercial
- ✕ Maintenance Workers/Machinery

EMERGING INDUSTRIES/OCCUPATIONS

- ✕ Electrical and Electronic Repairers/Commercial
- ✕ Maintenance Workers/Machinery

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC SKILLS INITIATIVE

Economic Growth Region 7  
✕ 2006 - 2007 ✕

ROOT CAUSES

- ✕ Lack of Training Capacity  
Shortages of qualified clinical settings.  
Graduates often accept employment outside of region.
- ✕ Employer Recruitment and Retention Practices  
Little interest in manufacturing careers due to perception.  
Need to advance more incumbent workers into demand occupations.
- ✕ Lack of Career Awareness  
Lack of awareness of biotech career paths.  
Lack of career education and skills for high-wage positions.

IDENTIFIED SOLUTIONS

- ✕ Industrial Maintenance Training Program
- ✕ Skills One Certification Program
- ✕ WorkKeys Assessments for Area Students
- ✕ Youth Manufacturing Program
- ✕ Incumbent Worker Soft Skills Training
- ✕ Increased Communication of Manufacturing Career Opportunities



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC SKILLS INITIATIVE



A FORCE FOR REGIONAL INNOVATION

The Wabash Valley Advanced  
Manufacturing Cluster



A SKILLED WORKFORCE

IS THE KEY TO

ECONOMIC GROWTH



Mr. M. Kenneth Baker  
Director, Human Resources, AET, Inc.  
President, Region 7 Workforce Board

“Most manufacturing companies experience times of losing and growing jobs. Despite these swings, the Wabash Valley is becoming a region of overall manufacturing job growth. This is partly because of industry intermediaries such as the Wabash Valley Education Alliance, Workone, and area Chambers of Commerce and local economic development organizations.”

“The demand-driven system established in the Wabash Valley is not a quick fix, but rather a long -term commitment to area businesses.”



Mr. Lawrence Tempel  
Manager, Agronomy Growers Co-op  
President, Workforce Network

WORKFORCE SKILL ENHANCEMENT

- ✕ Skills One Certification program
- ✕ TAG Grants - Cluster Consortium and individual compaines
- ✕ Fabrication camp
- ✕ Work Keys participation
- ✕ Soft skills training

INCREASED TRAINING & GRANT SUPPORT

- ✕ Plans and Host Business Grant Workshops
- ✕ Supporting Partner for: numerous education and training grants for area high schools, colleges, and universities.

WABASH VALLEY ADVANCED  
MANUFACTURING CLUSTER

VISION

PEOPLE IMPROVEMENT

PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT

PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT

IMPROVED MANUFACTURING IMAGE  
AND INFLUENCE

- ✕ Regional Marketing Campaign
- ✕ 456JOB Web Site
- ✕ Annual Labor Day
- ✕ Involved In Local Issues



SHARED INFORMATION, DATA,  
AND BEST PRACTICES

- ✕ Annual WVAMC Survey
- ✕ Teacher Problem Solving
- ✕ Healthcare coalition
- ✕ Speakers
- ✕ Teacher Internships
- ✕ Bi-Monthly Membership Meeting



PARTNERS IN INNOVATION

- AET
- AISIN BRAKE & CHASSIS, INC.
- ALLOMATIC PRODUCTS
- AMPACET
- BEMIS COMPANY, INC
- C.A.R.S.
- CHEETAH BUILDING PRODUCTS
- CINERGY
- CLABBER GIRL CORPORATION
- CSN, LLC
- DATA MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.
- GEES TRI REMANUFACTURING
- GREAT DANE TRAILERS
- JADCORE, INC.
- LILLY CLINTON LABORATORIES
- MOOR LANGEN PRINTING
- NOVELIS CORPORATION
- PFIZER INC
- SMITHS AEROSPACE
- SONY DADC
- THYSSENKRUPP PRESTA COMPANY
- TRI AEROSPACE, LLC
- WABASH VALLEY PACKAGING CORPORATION



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